

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 ~~1. A method for pre-storing a portion of a program distributed on a~~
2 ~~plurality of distribution conduits and in a linear schedule with staggered start times, the~~
3 ~~method comprising:~~
4 ~~determining a first start time of the program on a first distribution conduit;~~
5 ~~determining a second start time of the program on a second distribution~~
6 ~~conduit;~~
7 ~~determining a stagger time between the first start time and the second start~~
8 ~~time; and~~
9 ~~storing a segment of the program about equal in length to the stagger time.~~

1 2. The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed
2 on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start
3 times as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second distribution
4 conduits comprises at least one of a digital channel and an analog channel.

1 3. The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed
2 on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start
3 times as recited in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the first and second distribution
4 conduits share a same channel.

1 4. The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed
2 on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start
3 times as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second distribution
4 conduits comprises a broadband network connection.

1 5. The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed
2 on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start
3 times as recited in claim 1, wherein the determining the stagger time comprises
4 subtracting the first start time from the second start time.

1 6. The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed
2 on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start
3 times as recited in claim 1, wherein the storing the segment comprises storing the
4 segment at a user location.

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1 7. The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed
2 on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start
3 times as recited in claim 1, wherein the storing the segment comprises storing the
4 segment in a non-volatile manner.

1 8. The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed
2 on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start
3 times as recited in claim 1, wherein the storing the segment comprises storing the
4 segment on a rotating disk.

1 9. The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed
2 on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start
3 times as recited in claim 1, further comprising recording the segment from the first
4 distribution conduit.

1 10. A distribution program product for pre-storing a portion of a
2 program distributed on a plurality of distribution conduits and in a linear schedule with
3 staggered start times, the distribution program product comprising:
4 code for determining a first start time of the program on a first distribution
5 conduit;
6 code for determining a second start time of the program on a second
7 distribution conduit;
8 code for determining a stagger time between the first start time and the
9 second start time;
10 code for storing a segment of the program about equal in length to the
11 stagger time; and
12 a computer-readable medium for storing the codes.

1 11. The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the
2 program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule
3 with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein at least one of the first and
4 second distribution conduits comprises at least one of a digital channel and an analog
5 channel.

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1 12. The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the
2 program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule
3 with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein at least a portion of the first and
4 second distribution conduits share a same channel.

1 13. The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the
2 program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule
3 with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein at least a portion of the first and
4 second distribution conduits share a same transponder.

1 14. The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the
2 program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule
3 with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein at least one of the first and
4 second distribution conduits comprises a broadband network connection.

1 15. The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the
2 program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule
3 with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein the code for determining the
4 stagger time comprises code for subtracting the first start time from the second start time.

1 16. The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the
2 program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule
3 with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein the code for storing the segment
4 comprises code for storing the segment at a user location.

1 17. The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the
2 program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule
3 with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein the code for storing the segment
4 comprises code for storing the segment on a rotating disk.

1 18. The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the
2 program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule
3 with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, further comprising code for recording
4 the segment from the first distribution conduit.

1 19. The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the
2 program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule
3 with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein the code for storing the segment
4 comprises code for storing the segment in a non-volatile manner.

1 20. A method for pre-storing a portion of a program distributed on a
2 plurality of distribution conduits and in a linear schedule with staggered start times, the
3 method comprising:
4 determining a first start time of the program on a first distribution conduit;
5 determining a second start time of the program on a second distribution
6 conduit, wherein at least one of the first and second distribution conduits comprises at
7 least one of a digital channel, an analog channel, a broadband network;
8 determining a stagger time between the first start time and the second start
9 time, wherein the determining the stagger time comprises subtracting the first start time
10 from the second start time; and
11 storing a segment of the program about equal in length to the stagger time,
12 wherein the storing the segment comprises storing the segment proximate to a user
13 location.

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